

Application No. 09/509,391
Paper Dated: March 17 2004
In Reply to USPTO Correspondence of November 18, 2003
Attorney Docket No. 0702-000648

REMARKS

The Office Action of November 18, 2003 has been reviewed and the Examiner's comments carefully considered. Claims 36-38, 40, 49 and 51-57 are currently pending in this application. Claim 36 has been amended. No new matter has been added.

Claims 36-38, 40 and 52-55 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) for purported anticipation by Daly et al.; claims 36, 38, 49 and 51-56 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) for purported anticipation by Baggiolini et al.; and claims 36, 38 and 49 and 51-57 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) for purported unpatentability over Baggiolini et al. in view of Cimbollek et al. In view of this amendment and of the following remarks, Applicants believe that all the asserted rejections are in condition for withdrawal and all the claims are in condition for allowance.

In a telephone communication with the Examiner, the Examiner stated that the above-recited rejections would be withdrawn if main claim 36 were amended to recite the transitional phrase "consisting of" in place of "consisting essentially of." Accordingly, Applicants have amended independent claim 36 to recite the transitional phrase "consisting of."

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 36-38, 40, 49 and 51-57 now are patentable over the cited prior art and in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of claims 36-38, 40, 49 and 51-57 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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